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## BRIEFS

MOSCOW ON IRAN: Continuing to accuse the United States of planning "further military action" against Iran in the wake of the abortive U.S. hostage rescue mission last month, Moscow has been replaying Iranian charges that the mission was aimed at overthrowing the Iranian Government. Comment has focused on the U.S. military buildup around Iran and the threat it allegedly poses to all states in the region. Moscow is still cautious, however, in offering its support to Tehran. Brezhnev's November 1978 warning against foreign intervention in Iran's affairs has been recalled, for the first time since 25 March, but only in a routine May Day talk by Moscow radio Persian-service commentator Vera Lebedeva, who credited the Brezhnev statement with "halting a military intervention." There has been no original Soviet comment on the six-day occupation of the Iranian Embassy in London by Iranian Arab dissidents. Limited TASS coverage of the incident, citing foreign media reports, in at least one case insinuated a possible U.S. role in the takeover, but this suggestion was not picked up in PRAVDA. In its version of a 3 May TASS dispatch on the London incident, the paper deleted the news agency's observation that the "possibility of a close connection" between the U.S. rescue mission and the London takeover had been "noted" in the British capital. But for Persian audiences, Moscow radio in a 3 May newscast replayed an accusation, attributed to Tehran radio, that the London Embassy seizure had been engineered by U.S. and British intelligence organizations. In contrast to Moscow's carefully phrased expressions of support for the appropriate international convention concerning the occupation of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, TASS, at the outset of the London incident, forthrightly declared that such a "provocation" was a violation of "the sovereign rights and extraterritoriality of the embassy of any state," running "counter to the international convention on this score." With an eye to Iraqi and other Arab sensitivities, Soviet reportage on the 30 April - 5 May London episode conspicuously avoided identifying the hostage-takers as Arabs, referring to them only as "Iranians of Khuzestan descent," who demanded that their unidentified "supporters" imprisoned in Iran be flown to London.

NVOI ON RESCUE ATTEMPT: The Baku-based clandestine radio National Voice of Iran (NVOI) has generally echoed the line taken by official Soviet media on the unsuccessful U.S. hostage rescue attempt, condemning the mission as an act of "obvious banditry" and warning that the United States will attempt similar operations in the future, "most probably on a wider scale and with more preparations." Like Moscow central press and radio reportage, a 30 April NVOI commentary, for example, replayed charges by Ayatollah

7 MAY 1980

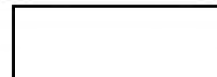
- 18 -

Khalkhali that the operation was aimed not at releasing the U.S. Embassy hostages but at seizing Ayatollah Khomeyni. And in the vein of speculation in Soviet media, NVOI on 5 May questioned the purpose of recent Administration consultations at Camp David and portrayed President Carter as eager to "carry out his plans against Iran." Several talks have pointedly reminded listeners of Iran's military and security shortcomings: NVOI said the fact that U.S. aircraft landed unmolested should "not be passed over lightly," and it professed concern for Khomeyni's safety in connection with the alleged U.S. intention to kidnap him. Commentaries have linked the rescue attempt with the unrest in Iranian universities and the "fratricide" in Kordestan--both standard topics of comment by NVOI but seldom addressed by official Soviet media. The United States, the radio asserted on 28 April, is using a "fifth column" in Iran to aggravate the country's "convulsive situation" and to facilitate its "aggression" against Iran. NVOI predictably cited the alleged threat posed by the rescue attempt as proof of the need for "unity of word and action" by Iran's "progressive" forces.

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# OFFICE OF CURRENT OPERATIONS NEWS SERVICE

Date. 28 Apr 80  
Item No. 1  
Ref. No. \_\_\_\_\_

## DISTRIBUTION II

FBIS 26 (SEE 25 OF 26 APRIL--TASS ON PRAVDA)

PRAVDA: RESCUE BID 'MERELY COMPLICATING' HOSTAGE SITUATION

LD281107 MOSCOW PRAVDA IN RUSSIAN 26 APR 80 P 5

(GENNADIY VASILYEV "OBSERVER'S OPINION")

(TEXT) WASHINGTON'S DANGEROUS MILITARY-POLITICAL ADVENTURE HAS ENDED IN A SHAMEFUL FIASCO. PRATTLE ABOUT THE "HUMANE AIMS" OF THE ARMED U.S. INCURSION ONTO A SOVEREIGN COUNTRY'S TERRITORY AND PRATTLE TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS MILITARY DIVERSION WAS EVEN DESIGNED TO "REDUCE INTERNATIONAL TENSION" IS TO BE HEARD FROM THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC.

THE THUGGISH STYLE OF THE OPERATION'S ORGANIZERS HAS REMINDED MANY OBSERVERS OF ANOTHER INSTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL GANGSTERISM--THE 1976 RAID ON ENTEBBE AIRPORT IN UGANDA BY TEL AVIV CUTTHROATS. RECENT REPORTS OF CIA CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI SECRET SERVICE MOSSAD, AND WEST GERMANY'S BND ARE BEING INTERPRETED IN A NEW LIGHT IN THIS CONNECTION. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE WAS NO HELP. THE SUBVERSIVE ADVENTURE SANCTIONED BY THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION FAILED.

THE EVENTS PLAYED OUT IN THE SKIES AND ON THE SOIL OF IRAN ARE EVIDENCE THAT REASONABLE, SOBER PRINCIPLES ARE BEING MANIFESTED LESS AND LESS IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. ON THE CONTRARY, AN INCLINATION FOR IMPULSIVE, RECKLESS ACTIONS IS INCREASINGLY PREVAILING. THE PRACTICAL MOVES MADE BY THE WASHINGTON CHAMPIONS OF "HUMANITY" AND "HUMAN RIGHTS" IMPLY A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE VAST NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST REGION AND JEOPARDIZE THE LIVES OF THE AMERICANS WHO MAY BE DRAGGED INTO ADVENTURES.

MR CARTER HAS REPEATEDLY SAID THAT HE IS ACUTELY ANXIOUS TO FREE, SAFE AND UNHARMED; THE AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS BEING (over)

HELD IN TEHRAN. BUT WHAT IS WASHINGTON ACTUALLY DOING? LAUNCHING MILITARY PROVOCATIONS, THREATS AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BLACKMAIL. ALL THIS IS NOT ONLY FAILING TO BRING THE DAY OF THE HOSTAGES' RELEASE ANY NEARER BUT IS MERELY COMPLICATING THE PROBLEM. MEANWHILE THE IRANIAN LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD HAVE BEEN SETTLED LONG AGO HAD THE UNITED STATES REALLY WANTED THIS. AFTER ALL, IRAN WOULD STILL LIKE TO SECURE A U.S. COMMITMENT NOT TO INTERFERE IN IRAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH IS A PERFECTLY NATURAL DESIRE IN THE LIGHT OF PAST DECADES, WHEN THE CIA BEHAVED IN THAT COUNTRY AS THOUGH IT WERE AT HOME, DEPOSING LEADERS ELECTED BY THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AND ESTABLISHING A BLOODY REGIME CONVENIENT TO WASHINGTON. BUT THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION STUBBORNLY REFUSES TO ASSUME SUCH A COMMITMENT. THE WHITE HOUSE DECLARES THAT IT WOULD BE A HUMILIATION FOR THE UNITED STATES. YET WHAT THE IRANIANS ARE DEMANDING AS A CONDITION FOR RELEASING THE HOSTAGES IS MERELY RECOGNITION OF ELEMENTARY NORMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

JUST WHERE IN THE COURSE OF MILITARY PROVOCATIONS AND OF STEPPING UP INTERNATIONAL TENSION PURSUED BY THE UNITED STATES IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST LEADING? MANY PEOPLE, IN WEST EUROPE INCLUDED, ARE NOW ASKING THEMSELVES THAT QUESTION WITH MOUNTING CONCERN. AN EEC FOREIGN MINISTER'S CONFERENCE HAD ONLY JUST DECIDED, UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON, ON ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC "SANCTIONS" AGAINST IRAN. CERTAIN CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS JUSTIFIED THE NEED FOR THIS DECISION BY CLAIMING THAT A SHOW OF "ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY" WOULD HELP TO KEEP THE UNITED STATES FROM DANGEROUS MILITARY MOVES.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE U.S. LANDING IN IRAN HAS SHOWN THE INVALIDITY OF THOSE EXPECTATIONS. CARTER NOT ONLY MADE THIS DANGEROUS MOVE BUT DID SO, AS HE HIMSELF ADMITTED, ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

"COMPLAISANCE" BY THE WEST EUROPEAN ALLIES LEADS, THEREFORE, TO COMPLETELY THE OPPOSITE RESULTS. THE POLICY OF "APPEASEMENT" IS MAKING THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT STILL MORE IMPULSIVE, ADVENTURIST AND UNPREDICTABLE. THIS POLICY THREATENS TO DRAG THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR WISHES AND IN DEFIANCE OF THEIR NATIONAL INTERESTS, INTO A DANGEROUS CONFLICT IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS PLAYING AN IRRESPONSIBLE GAME. THE RECKLESSNESS MUST BE ENDED.

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FBIS 160

TASS CITES PARS ON COMMANDOS' 'VIOLENCE' AGAINST IRANIANS

LD251930 MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 1920 GMT 25 APR 80

(TEXT) TEHRAN; 25 APRIL; TASS--IN THE COURSE OF THE ABORTIVE BANDIT ACTION IN IRAN; THE U.S. "COMMANDOS" EMPLOYED VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT IRANIANS WHOM THEY ATTEMPTED TO FORCIBLY CARRY AWAY TO THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO THE PARS NEWS AGENCY CITING EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS; THE U.S.M MILITARY WHO HAD INVADDED THE IRANIAN TERRITORY STOPPED A PASSENGER BUS NEAR THE TOWN OF TABAS AND ORDERED ALL THE PASSENGERS OUT. AFTER BEATING THEM UP AND SUBJECTING THEM TO HUMILIATION THE "COMMANDOS" TRIED TO DRIVE THEM INTO THE PLANE IN ORDER TO TAKE THEM TO THE UNITED STATES. HOWEVER; AFTER ANOTHER U.S. PLANE CAUGHT FIRE THE AMERICANS SOUNDED A HASTY RETREAT.

AN OIL TANKER DRIVER SAID THAT HE HAD FOUND HIS COLLEAGUE MURDERED BY A SHOT IN THE HEAD NEAR THE PLACE WHERE THE U.S. PIRATES HAD BEEN.

25 APR 2108Z JCH/MT

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FBIS 15''''

TASS REPORTS ATTEMPTED RESCUE OF HOSTAGES

LD250747 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 0731 GMT 25 APR 80

("WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT"--TASS HEADLINE)

(TEXT) NEW YORK, 25 APRIL, TASS--EARLY ON FRIDAY MORNING

THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THAT A MILITARY ATTEMPT TO BRING THE

AMERICAN HOSTAGES BEING HELD IN TEHRAN BACK TO THE UNITED

STATES WAS BROKEN OFF DUE TO "EQUIPMENT FAILURE." A COLLISION

BETWEEN TWO AMERICAN PLANES ON THE GROUND IN THE IRANIAN DESERT

LED TO THE DEATH OF EIGHT MEMBERS OF THEIR CREWS, AND A NUMBER

OF OTHER PERSONS, WHO WERE TAKEN BY AIR OUT OF IRAN, ALSO

SUFFERED. THE WHITE HOUSE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER

GAVE THE ORDER TO END THE OPERATION, FOR WHICH HE TOOK FULL

RESPONSIBILITY.

25 APR 0801Z TC/TN''''

*Handwritten initials and signature*

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47PM-IRAN-SOVIET-LEAD''''URGENT (NO PICKUP R-199)±

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MOSCOW, APRIL 25, REUTER - THE SOVIET UNION TODAY CONDEMNED PRESIDENT CARTER'S ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO FREE THE U.S. HOSTAGES IN TEHERAN AND SAID THE OPERATION BORDERED ON THE INSANE. THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY TASS, REACTING WITH UNUSUAL SPEED, SAID THE "RECKLESS" RESCUE ATTEMPT MIGHT HAVE STARTED A WAR; AND SUGGESTED THAT WASHINGTON'S ALLIES WOULD HAVE TO SHARE RESPONSIBILITY EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED.

IN PARIS, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDREI GROMYKO SAID THAT WHEN HE FIRST HEARD WHAT HAD HAPPENED HE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE IT; EVEN THOUGH THE SOVIET PRESS HAD BEEN WARNING FOR MONTHS OF THE IMMINENT DANGER OF U.S. MILITARY ACTION IN IRAN.

INITIAL COMMENT FROM THE OFFICIAL MEDIA IN MOSCOW INDICATED THAT THE KREMLIN WOULD NOW EXPLOIT THE FAILED RESCUE BID, ANNOUNCED BY THE WHITE HOUSE, TO SAY "WE TOLD YOU SO" TO THE U.S. ALLIES AND THE PERSIAN GULF STATES.

THE U.S. MISSION, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS CALLED OFF WITHOUT ANY CLASHES WITH IRANIAN FORCES, IS LIKELY TO BE SEEN IN MOSCOW AS A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO DIVERT WORLD ATTENTION FROM EVENTS IN NEIGHBORING AFGHANISTAN.±

MORE 0936 JP



44PM-IRAN-SOVIET LEAD 2 MOSCOW

TASS, DESCRIBING THE U.S. OPERATION AS AN ARMED PROVOCATION AGAINST IRAN, SAID IT WAS LAUNCHED IN DEFIANCE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND COULD HAVE SPARKED A WAR IN THE PERSIAN GULF, KILLING THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE.

PRESIDENT CARTER LAUNCHED THE RESCUE BID IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS A STRONG LEADER AND GET HIMSELF REELECTED AT ANY PRICE; THE SOVIET NEWS AGENCY SAID IN A REPORT FROM NEW YORK.

IT ACCUSED THE PRESIDENT OF BEING PREPARED TO RISK MASS BLOODSHED AND THE LIVES OF THE 50 AMERICAN HOSTAGES FOR HIS OWN ELECTORAL INTERESTS.

A TASS COMMENTARY ON THE AFFAIR SAID THE RESCUE MISSION WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE DANGEROUS PATH WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS FOLLOWING.

"PRESIDENT CARTER IS TRYING TO REDUCE EVERYTHING TO THE PROBLEM OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. IN FACT THE HOSTAGES ARE ONLY A PRETEXT FOR CARRYING OUT AN AGGRESSIVE, HEGEMONISTIC AMERICAN POLICY, AIMED AT FORCING IRAN TO SUBMIT TO IMPERIALIST DICTATE AND STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY-POLITICAL PRESENCE OF THE U.S. IN THE AREA OF THE MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST," TASS SAID.

MORE 0930 JP

44R257

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44PM-IRAN-SOVIET LEAD 3 MOSCOW

THE KREMLIN AGENCY SAID THE HOSTAGES COULD HAVE BEEN FREED LONG AGO IF THE UNITED STATES HAD AGREED TO IRAN'S TERMS, ADMITTED ITS PAST INTERFERENCE IN IRANIAN AFFAIRS AND PROMISED NOT TO CARRY OUT SIMILAR INTERFERENCE IN THE FUTURE.

THE REAL CAUSE OF THE CRISIS WAS NOT THE HOSTAGES BUT AMERICAN PRESSURE AND SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN, WHICH WERE BEING IMPOSED BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER DID NOT LIKE THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM WHICH IRAN HAD CHOSEN.

U.S. MOVES AGAINST IRAN WERE "ADVENTURIST AND UNPRECEDENTED," TASS SAID. "WHAT IS HAPPENING IS BALANCING ON THE BRINK OF INSANITY, AND THERE IS NO NEED TO SAY WHAT A SERIOUS DANGER SUCH A COURSE POSES FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND THE SECURITY OF PEOPLES," TASS COMMENTED.

THE NEWS AGENCY SAID THE UNITED STATES' EUROPEAN ALLIES MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE ON THE "CRAZY" PLANS OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT IN FACT THEY WERE SUPPORTING WASHINGTON.

MORE 0941 JP

44R258

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44PM-IRAN-SOVIET LEAD 4 MOSCOW

CONCESSIONS WHICH THE ALLIES HAD MADE TO THE UNITED STATES OVER SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN WERE LEADING ONLY TO HEIGHTENED TENSION WHICH WOULD FREE PRESIDENT CARTER'S HANDS TO BROADEN THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE PERSIAN GULF REGION.

"RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE ACTIONS OF CARTER'S ARE BORNE BY THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, AND BY THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT," TASS SAID, IN AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO U.S. ALLIES.

REUTER 0942 JP

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THE FAILURE OF THE LATEST ADVENTURES, UNDERTAKEN AT THE DIRECTION OF THE WHITE HOUSE, TESTIFIES HOW DANGEROUS THE PATH IS UPON WHICH THE PRESENT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IS PROCEEDING. PRESIDENT CARTER IS TRYING TO REDUCE EVERYTHING TO THE PROBLEM OF THE AMERICAN HOSTAGES. IN FACT THE HOSTAGES ARE NO MORE THAN A PRETEXT FOR IMPLEMENTING AMERICA'S AGGRESSIVE AND HEGEMONISTIC POLICY, PURSUING THE GOAL OF FORCING IRAN TO SUBMIT TO IMPERIALISTIC DICTAT AND STRENGTHENING U.S. MILITARY AND POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE REGION OF THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST. IF IT WERE ONLY A QUESTION OF THE HOSTAGES, THE PROBLEM COULD HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN RESOLVED ON THE BASIS OF THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN. IT IS FITTING TO RECALL IN THIS CONNECTION THAT THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI HAS REQUESTED AND CONTINUES TO REQUEST THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ADMIT ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF IRAN IN THE PAST AND THAT IT SHOULD PLEDGE NOT TO RESORT TO SUCH INTERFERENCE IN THE FUTURE. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS CATEGORICALLY REFUSED TO GIVE SUCH ASSURANCES.

THE REAL REASON FOR THE INCESSANT IRANIAN-AMERICAN CRISIS IS NOT THE -HOSTAGE PROGRAM," BUT THE GROWING AMERICAN PRESSURE ON IRAN, THE DESIRE OF THE PRESENT WASHINGTON LEADERS TO ARROGATE TO THEMSELVES THE "RIGHT" TO OPENLY THREATEN IRAN AND TO USE SO-CALLED ECONOMIC AND OTHER SANCTIONS AGAINST IT, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF DEPRIVING THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY OF FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. AND ALL THIS IS SIMPLY BECAUSE THE SYSTEM WHICH THE IRANIAN PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN IS ONE WHICH DOES NOT SUIT MR CARTER.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, WHEN THE CIA OVERTHREW THE LEGITIMATE MOSADDEQ GOVERNMENT IN THAT COUNTRY AND PUT THE BLOODY SHAH REGIME IN POWER, THE IRANIAN PEOPLE EXPERIENCED FOR THEMSELVES THE CUNNING OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. NOW THE HEGEMONIST PLANS AND AGGRESSIVE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES VIS-A-VIS IRAN HAVE TAKEN ON A STILL MORE ADVENTURISTIC NATURE AND UNPRECEDENTED SCALE. THIS IS IN FACT A BALANCE ON THE BRINK OF MADNESS, AND THERE IS NO NEED TO SAY WHAT A SERIOUS DANGER SUCH A COURSE REPRESENTS FOR THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND THE SECURITY OF PEOPLES.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED THAT THE U.S. NATO ALLIES WOULD TRY TO STOP THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IN ITS RECKLESS ACTIONS. BUT THE OPPOSITE IS HAPPENING: THE MAJORITY OF NATO COUNTRIES--AND THIS IS CLEARLY SHOWN BY THE DECISIONS OF THE LUXEMBOURG SESSION OF THE EC COUNCIL--ARE BEING LED ALONG BY THE WHITE HOUSE AND ARE SUPPORTING THE LINE ADOPTED BY WASHINGTON OF BLACKMAIL, THREATS AND ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON IRAN. DESCRIBING THIS POSITION OF THE EC COUNTRIES, FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, AT A MEETING WITH JOURNALISTS, STATED THAT, AS HE SAID, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION "SHOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE DECISION ADOPTED BY THE EC." PERHAPS WASHINGTON IS "SATISFIED" WITH THIS DECISION. HOWEVER, SUCH A COURSE UNDERTAKEN BY THE U.S. ALLIES UNDER PRESSURE FROM WASHINGTON AND UNDER THE PRETEXT OF THE NECESSITY OF OBSERVING THE NOTORIOUS "ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY," JUST LIKE ALL THE MORE AND MORE NEW CONCESSIONS WHICH THE U.S. ALLIES ARE MAKING TO IT IN THE IRANIAN-AMERICAN CONFLICT, IN REALITY CAN LEAD NOT TO "PEACEMAKING" AS SOME PEOPLE IN THE WEST ASSERT, NOT TO A SOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT BUT TO AN ESCALATION OF TENSION, FOR THIS COURSE GIVES CARTER A FREE HAND FOR EVER MORE NEW ADVENTURES AND PUSHES THE UNITED STATES TO EXPANDING THE SCALE OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE REGION OF THE NEAR EAST.

THE LATEST RECKLESS ACTION BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDERTAKEN IN IRAN WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH ITS ALLIES AND WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE SHOWS THE RESOLVE OF THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO GO ALONG THE PATH OF WHIPPING UP THE EXPLOSIVE SITUATION IN THE REGION. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE ACTIONS BY CARTER IS BORNE BY BOTH THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT IT.

25 APR 1997 JUV/CAJ : : : :

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FBIS 109

TASS: U.S. 'RESCUE' PLANES TOOK OFF FROM EGYPTIAN AIRPORT

LD251634 MOSCOW TASS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1530 GMT  
25 APR 80

("FROM THE EGYPTIAN BASES"--TASS HEADLINE)

(TEXT) BEIRUT, 25 APRIL (TASS)--THE U.S. ADVENTURE OF "RESCUING" THE HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN STARTED AT ONE OF THE MILITARY AIRPORTS OF EGYPT. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S REPORTS OF WESTERN AGENCIES, A U.S. HEAVY TRANSPORT PLANE TOOK OFF YESTERDAY FROM THE EGYPTIAN AIR BASE LOCATED WEST OF CAIRO AT 2200 AND TOOK A COURSE FOR IRAN. IT LANDED IN BAHRAIN FOR REFUELING.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE REPORTS CONTRAIN, AS A CONFIRMATION, A REFERENCE TO MONITORED CONVERSATION OF THE LAND-BASED AIRPORT CONTROLS IN A NUMBER OF NEAR EASTERN COUNTRIES.

EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DENY ANY INVOLVEMENT OF EGYPT IN THE AMERICAN ACTION. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CAIRO SAID, IN HIS TURN, THAT HE COULD NEITHER CONFIRM NOR DENY THESE REPORTS. NONETHELESS, THE ISRAELI PAPER HA'ARIV PUBLISHED TODAY MATERIALS OF ITS (WORD INDISTINCT) CORRESPONDENT, WRITTEN PRIOR TO THE UNSUCCESSFUL AMERICAN OPERATION, THAT U.S. AIR FORCE PLANES RECENTLY RESUMED THE USE FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES OF THE MILITARY AIRPORT AT QINA (UPPER EGYPT) AND TURNED IT INTO THEIR OWN "OPERATIONAL BASE."

"C-130 TRANSPORT PLANES LANDED AT QINA AND UNLOADED ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT, AND RECONNAISSANCE PLANES WITH ELECTRONIC APPARATUS ALSO LANDED," THE NEWSPAPER REPORT SAYS. "SUCH ACTIVITY OBVIOUSLY INDICATES THE AMERICANS' INTENTION TO CARRY OUT SOME KIND OF OPERATION IN THE AREA, POSSIBLY WITH RELATION TO IRAN." THE REPORT STRESSES THAT THESE ACTIONS WERE GOING ON "WITH THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE."

CAIRO, 25 APRIL, TASS--THE AIRO NEWSPAPER AL-AKHBAR IN ITS TURN TODAY CONFIRMED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USE OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY BASES BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE. AS THE NEWSPAPER'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT WRITES, "RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OF THE AWACS SYSTEM HAVE RETURNED TO THE NEAR EAST AND WILL POSSIBLY CARRY OUT AIR PATROLS THERE IN WHICH EGYPTIAN SPECIALISTS AND FLYERS WILL TAKE PART."

IN JANUARY, AS IS KNOWN, SEVERAL AWACS SYSTEM PLANES WERE LOCATED AT AIR FORCE BASES IN UPPER EGYPT. THE CAIRO PRESS ADMITTED ALSO THAT SUBUNITS OF THE U.S. AND EGYPTIAN AIR FORCES THEN CARRIED OUT JOINT MANEUVERS OVER THE RED SEA.

25 APR 1750Z NB/CAJ